



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

HARVEST NEWS

We are dedicated to relieving hunger in metro Detroit and preventing nutritious food waste.



FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY IN METRO DETROIT THE MOVEMENT

Joining forces with Forgotten Harvest is more than providing the right food to our neighbors. It is becoming a part of the movement to provide the **Right Food** in the **Right Place** in the **Right Quantity** at the **Right Time** to our community, while supporting sustainable food systems and protecting the environment. **24% of all landfill waste is food waste. Over 40% of all food produced about 75 billion pounds of food annually goes to waste.** What if hunger in metro Detroit was eliminated because of the food we were able to rescue and redistribute?

This year we were able to rescue over 51 million pounds of food, getting it into the hands of those who needed it. This food was destined to end up in a landfill, where decomposition would release highly potent methane gas.

Our model of redistributing rescued food allows increased access to food in the areas that need it the most. We use our network of 37 trucks and drivers, agency volunteers and partnerships, 530 food donors and 82 mobile pantry sites to get food into the

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LETTER FROM KIRK



I often think about how people often say “**It takes a village**” to explain how a community comes together to raise a child or solve an issue. Thankfully due to our loyal donors – **YOU ARE THE VILLAGE.**

When the COVID-19 pandemic first began, I remember sitting in our conference room wondering when the cavalry was going to come. Forgotten Harvest was concerned and ready to do what was necessary to help. We knew our community depended on us as first responders.

For the emergency food system to work, we needed to act, and now had many more people in metro Detroit in need of our services.

Forgotten Harvest was able to respond quickly because of you, our supporters. Some people came forward for the first time to join a great many of our donors who have sustained our mission for many years.

Follow us:    

We recently took a look at our database and discovered the following:

- More than 4,400 people have been donors to Forgotten Harvest for 5 years
- More than 2,900 donors have been with us for 10 years
- More than 270 have been with us for 15 years
- Over 30 people have been donors for more than 20 years

These are amazing statistics. We are proud to be stewards of your generosity. We could not do our work without you.

With the opening of our new facility, our strategic vision is moving ahead quickly. These operational changes are critical to our ability to have an even greater impact in the fight against hunger in metro Detroit.

Thank you for making it possible to collect and distribute highly perishable, surplus, nutritious food to help feed the community.

248-967-1500
www.forgottenharvest.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Harvest Heatwave | August 12th, 2022!

Celebrate Forgotten Harvest with family and friends on Friday, August 12, 2022 at Beacon Park in downtown Detroit for an all ages fundraiser to fight food insecurity.

Featuring food, beverages, games, and an outdoor movie under the stars, our new fundraiser promises to be an educational and entertaining experience for Forgotten Harvest supporters both young and old.

<https://www.forgottenharvest.org/harvestheatwave2022>

Forgotten Harvest's Women's Harvest Lunch returns to Royal Oak Farmers Market | October 6th, 2022!

Join Forgotten Harvest for the return of Women's Harvest Lunch on Thursday, October 6th!

Benefiting Forgotten Harvest Farms, this fundraiser event brings together women, businesses, and community leaders who committed to alleviating hunger and reducing food waste in metro Detroit.

<https://www.forgottenharvest.org/womensharvestlunch2022>

THE MOVEMENT

community, and we make our decisions about the next area to distribute based upon our mapping of food insecurity. The food that we rescue would otherwise become food waste. Our approach helps children, seniors and families facing food insecurity while also benefiting the environment.

To continue our momentum, we are actively growing community relationships to increase agency and food donor partnerships so we can redistribute even more food. Our new facility will allow us to reach more people. As our founder, Nancy Fishman, notes in her book, *Eight Lessons Learned in the Corners of the Field*: **One person can make a difference, and each person's contribution is significant.** Her lessons continue to motivate our progress.

Help us to continue Forgotten Harvest's 30+ year journey of reducing hunger, food waste, and greenhouse gas emissions. We work hard to make a more environmentally sustainable, balanced society by aiming to ensure food for every table. **Thank you for being a part of the movement.**



Volunteers harvest vegetables at Forgotten Harvest Farms

NEW PANTRY - MADISON HEIGHTS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE



"This pantry helps stretch our budget. My wife and I both just earn minimum wage, and so it's very hard to buy all the essentials. This pantry is so helpful, I live in the apartment building nearby and it is very big help for us. I had my wife tell my friends to come. It's big help for everyone!"

— James M.



UNITED DAIRY INDUSTRY OF MICHIGAN



United Dairy Industry of Michigan (UDIM) has been a vital, long-time partner of Forgotten Harvest, donating food and supplying financial resources to support programs, events, and day-to-day operations. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, UDIM came through in a huge way - donating \$75,000 (equivalent to 300,000 meals) to meet the

sudden increase in need for food in the community.

For the last several years, they have been a reliable sponsor of Forgotten Harvest's annual fall event, in supporting Forgotten Harvest Farms. UDIM has also continued to play an integral role in donating dairy items such as milk and cheese, to be delivered to Forgotten Harvest's agency partners.

They went above and beyond during last year's Hope for the Holidays event, by not only providing cheese and sour cream, but also cheese graters and a delicious recipe for mac and cheese. These special items were distributed to 6,000 Metro Detroit households right in time for the holidays. Forgotten Harvest is thankful for all UDIM does to support its mission, and looks forward to continuing this partnership to help fight hunger and food insecurity.

"Our Michigan dairy farmers understand how important it is to get nutritious dairy foods into the hands of people who need them most. We are proud to partner with Forgotten Harvest to ensure that clients get the nutrient-rich dairy foods families need." Cortney Freeland, Director, UDIM

MILK
MEANS MORE

United Dairy Industry of Michigan



EMERGING LEADERS COUNCIL - ELC

Are you a young professional or do you know a young professional who is interested in supporting Forgotten Harvest in a meaningful way? The Emerging Leaders Council (ELC) is actively recruiting members ages 21-40 to join a movement to fight hunger and reduce food waste in SE Michigan. We hope you will join us!

The Emerging Leaders Council is a group of talented young professionals who are engaged with Forgotten Harvest, providing not only their time and money, but also their professional and personal talents to develop solutions to support Forgotten Harvest's mission. Since 2016, the ELC has supported various events, conducted a speaker series, and lent their expertise to committees and projects that benefit the organization. Currently, the ELC is focused on engaging the next generation of philanthropists and bolstering volunteer recruitment.

Members of the ELC attend regular meetings, volunteer, donate to the organization, and have opportunities to sit on Forgotten Harvest committees, attend special events, and network with Forgotten Harvest staff and board members.

If you or someone you know would be a good fit for the ELC, please reach out to ForgottenHarvestELC@gmail.com



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DONOR VOLUNTEER DAY

As an environmental attorney, Sharon is very aware of the impacts of landfill waste. She supports Forgotten Harvest because she knows her support allows for delicious and nutritious foods to be rescued and given to the local community.



“The environment and protection of the environment is something in the back of my head. Issues like food waste and ways to optimize and reduce, reuse, and recycle is always in my head. When I see an opportunity for a way to help people through something that also has other benefits to the environment- that’s a double win! Saving food while helping people in the community. It

is really community based. **I’m happy to support an organization that supports my neighbors.”**

Over the years Sharon and her family have gotten further involved and volunteered here at Forgotten Harvest. Just this past Martin Luther King Jr. Day, she volunteered to pack food boxes in our warehouse. Not only is Sharon a volunteer and loyal donor of Forgotten Harvest but, she also has decided to become a member of our Sustainers Circle.

“I want to make regular donations. This way it can be more sustained giving... which allows Forgotten Harvest to have a more regular budget that can be counted on throughout the year.”

The generous support donors like Sharon provide is incredible. By becoming a monthly donor, you can join the movement to protect our environment all while helping your community.

Your regular monthly support can make so much possible!



“It has been so rewarding working with our donors. Their passion and commitment to the mission is a wonderful thing to experience”

— Emily R.

Interested in our Sustainers Circle?
Contact: Emily Rathod at 313-770-1234
or erathod@forgottenharvest.org.

Find a donation method that is right for you and we’ll put every dollar toward preventing hunger in metro Detroit.

Go to: www.forgottenharvest.org/ways-give



OUR VISION HAS BECOME REALITY!

Please join us for our public **GRAND OPENING** of our new campus. We are celebrating our new food distribution center and campus. This event is open to everyone in our community, including our Donors, Volunteers, and Agency Partners.

To meet critical needs and scale to the level of service metro Detroit requires, Forgotten Harvest has constructed a new, purpose-built, 78,000 square-foot facility on 8 Mile Road in Oak Park. This new headquarters will enable us to:

- Provide a healthier, more nutritious mix of food for food-insecure families, children, and seniors in metro Detroit.
- Increase distribution to under-served communities and improve service, quality, and reliability to partner agencies.
- Provide a more equitable distribution to food-insecure residents in our community.
- Enhance our volunteer experience and make more efficient use of our volunteer support with multiple sort lines creating greater throughput and additional volunteer opportunities.
- Innovative logistics to accommodate merging warehouse and grocery rescue supply chains, increasing our capability to build a nutritious plate by up to 90%
- Expanded truck docks — from 2 to 15 — and parking to accommodate our entire fleet, 200 volunteers, and all staff.
- 90 million pound capacity — our current rescued pounds will grow to 55 million pounds by 2023 and 70 million pounds by 2028.

Come celebrate with us
Saturday May 21, 2022
10:00am-4:00pm

15000 West Eight Mile Rd., Oak Park, MI 48237

Your generous commitment to our community makes this possible.